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# Woodbridge Urban District Council.

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## Annual Report OF THE Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

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1962



C.H. IIRIE,

T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.



Eden Lodge,  
Woodbridge,  
Suffolk.

November, 1963.

The Chairman and Councillors,  
Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year, 1962, dealing with the general health of the population of Woodbridge and with such matters of hygiene and sanitation as may influence the health of the community.

I would like to thank the Council and Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C.H. Imrie, T.D., Q.H.S.,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

G. Ogden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

A. STATISTICS

1. Summary of General Statistics

Area of District in Acres	...	1112
Number of inhabited houses (approx.)...		2118
Rateable Value of District	... £80,643.	0. 0.
Product of Penny Rate	... £322.	17. 1.

## Statistical Matter

### Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population of Woodbridge for 1962 was 6,070 persons. This is an increase of 50 over the estimate for the previous year 1961, but it falls short by some hundred of that for 1960.

The picture is, however, somewhat blurred by the recent issue of some of the 1961 Census figures which give a population of 5,951 for that year.

Although it is difficult to be definite in this matter, it appears that the increase in population which in the post-war years was gradual but fairly regular, has now reached a stage which is more static.

When we receive the full Census report, however, the situation may become clearer.

### Births

Live births in 1962 numbered 86. This figure is about the average for the past few years and represents a Live Birth Rate of 14.6 per 1,000 population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18.0.

Of the 89 births the males numbered 46 and the females 43.

The illegitimate births totalled 5 or approximately 1 in every 17 live births.

Still births during 1962 totalled 2 which gives a Still Birth Rate of 21.9. The figure for England and Wales was 18.1.

### Deaths

During the year, allowing for inward and outward transfers there were 51 male and 33 female deaths making a total of 84 in all. The Death Rate was 13.8 but when adjusted for comparison the Rate was 11.7 which is slightly lower than the rate for England and Wales (11.9). There was 1 death of a child under the age of one year.

The causes of death follow a similar pattern to that in previous years. The most prevalent cause being diseases of the Heart and Circulation. Next in frequency were the malignant diseases while other causes were represented but only in small numbers.

The deaths from accidental causes totalled 4.

There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases or from causes associated with pregnancy during the year.

#### Notifiable Disease

1962 was a year which was notably free from notifiable disease in Woodbridge. The total of notifications received was 17 which is the lowest figure for several years.

Measles, which as a rule is the cause of the majority of cases of infective disease was conspicuously rare in its visits to the Town and only accounted for 5 cases. The reason for this lies in the large number of cases of Measles which occurred during the previous year during which practically all the susceptible population had the disease. This meant that by the beginning of 1962 there were very few susceptible persons in the area and so we may not expect another outbreak until the number of these has increased considerably.

With regard to Tuberculosis during 1962 5 cases (3 of them new) were added to the register while 3 were removed. This shows a nett increase of 2.

#### Sewage Disposal

Woodbridge is now within reasonable distance of having its new Sewage Disposal Works at Creek Farm. As the Council know only too well this scheme has been in the planning stage for many years and has been frustrated and delayed in innumerable ways. The plans to deal with the sewage from Woodbridge and several of the parishes of the neighbouring Rural District are realistic and should improve materially the sanitary problems of both Authorities.

The collection of refuse continued in the manner employed in previous years and the disposal at the site in the Grundisburgh Road has presented no major difficulties.

#### Housing

1962 saw the completion of the scheme for clearing out the slum property on the North side of Castle Street and its replacement and redevelopment as a modern residential area. By the end of the year the blocks of flats had been largely completed and occupied, adding a total of 48 units of accommodation towards solving the town's housing problems. This now left the South side of the Street to be considered for further development and the preliminary planning was going ahead.



In spite of the considerable work that has been done in improving the areas of substandard development in Woodbridge there still remains much to be done before we can regard the standard of amenity as being acceptable generally throughout the district. New Street contains a number of dwellings which both on account of their fabric and their arrangement are much below the acceptable standard. Parts of Bredfield Street are also in a similar condition and there are various other areas throughout the Town where there are isolated houses or small groups of dwellings which will require to be dealt with.

Overcrowding is not a prominent feature in Woodbridge except in isolated instances. This aspect of the housing problem will improve as the standard of housing is improved.

The problem of the elderly who are living alone is one which does not admit of any easy solution. In many cases these people are living very near the subsistence level and there is often doubt whether they are receiving adequate nourishment. The Meals on Wheels service which was inaugurated in Woodbridge recently should go some distance towards helping these people.

The provision of a block of old people's flats with a warden to supervise and help those who require assistance is a method which has proved beneficial in many places and is well worthy of consideration.

#### Amenities

In previous reports I have drawn attention to the need for more public conveniences in the Town. The existing toilets are well-sited for their purpose but there are areas of the Town, particularly around the Market Hill which need further consideration. The presence of the Omnibus Station on the Market Hill draws large numbers to that part and it would be a logical extension of the public service to instal a public convenience at some point in the vicinity.

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Summary of Vital Statistics1953 to 1962

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
Estimated Population	5432	5510	5540	5590	5620	5680	5950	6190	6020	6070
Birth Rate	16.75 (91)	18.7 (103)	15.7 (87)	12.7 (71)	16.19 (91)	17.9 (102)	15.4 (92)	16.18 (100)	12.8 (77)	14.6 (89)
Still Birth Rate	nil	28.3 (3)	11.3 (1)	nil	31.8 (3)	9.8 (1)	10.8 (1)	10.0 (1)	nil	21.9 (2)
Death Rate	11.9 (65)	13.25 (73)	12.4 (69)	13.7 (77)	11.2 (66)	10.5 (62)	12.6 (75)	11.9 (74)	12.45 (75)	13.8 (84)
Infantile Death Rate	21.9 (2)	67.96 (7)	11.4 (1)	nil	32.9 (3)	9.8 (1)	10.8 (1)	50.0 (5)	12.9 (1)	11.2 (1)

Note: Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.



Analysis of Vital Statistics

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Population</u>	<u>Adjusted Rate for Comparison</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 population England &amp; Wales</u>
(a) <u>Live Births</u>						
Legitimate	43	41	89	14.6	14.45	18.0
Illegitimate	3	2				
(b) <u>Still Births</u>						
Legitimate	-	2	2	* 21.9	-	18.1
Illegitimate	-	-				
(c) <u>Deaths all Ages</u>	51	33	84	13.8	11.7	11.9
(d) <u>Deaths under 1 year of age</u>	1	-	1	* 11.2	-	20.7

\* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

<u>Code</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1962</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1961</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	-	3	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-	-
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	7	7
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	7	11	11
18. Coronary disease, angina	15	2	17	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1	6
20. Other heart disease	3	5	8	12
21. Other circulatory disease	2	3	5	3
22. Influenza	-	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	2	2	4	5
24. Bronchitis	1	1	2	4
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4	7	4
33. Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4	-
34. All other accidents	2	1	3	2
35. Suicide	1	3	4	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
	<u>51</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>75</u>

## Infectious Disease

## Notifications Received

<u>Disease</u>	under <u>1</u>	<u>1</u> to <u>2</u>	<u>3</u> to <u>4</u>	<u>5</u> to <u>9</u>	<u>10</u> to <u>14</u>	<u>15</u> to <u>24</u>	<u>25</u> to <u>44</u>	<u>45</u> to <u>64</u>	<u>65</u> & over	age unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
											17

## Monthly Notifications

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apl</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jne</u>	<u>Jly</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
													17

Tuberculosis

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register <u>1st January, 1962</u>	10	6	2	2	20
Number of cases notified <u>during the year</u>	2	-	-	1	3
Number restored to <u>Register</u>	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise <u>than by Notification</u>	2	-	-	-	2
Number of cases removed <u>from Register</u>	2	1	-	-	3
Number remaining on Register <u>at 31st December, 1962</u>	12	5	2	3	22

Details of Cases added to Register

<u>Age</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Location of Disease</u>
48	M	Engineer	Pulmonary
9	M	Schoolboy	Pulmonary
36	M	Market Gardener's Roundsman	Pulmonary
42	M	Male Nurse	Pulmonary
8	F	Schoolgirl	Non-pulmonary

Details of Cases Removed from Register

2 - Recovered  
1 - Died

HOUSINGStatistics for 1962

Number of inhabited houses in the District at 31.12.62.	2,118
Average number of persons per house	2.86
Number of new houses completed by Local Authority during the year	30 Flats
Total of post war Council Houses completed to 31.12.62.	377
Private buildings completed during 1962	40
Number of Improvement Grants approved during the year:	
Discretionary	- 5
Standard	- 27
Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 31.12.62.	151

General Inspection

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	67
(b) Total number of houses found to be unsatisfactory	56
(c) Number of houses still occupied for human habitation in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made	24

Housing Repairs

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	4
Number of scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	4

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil
Number of properties involved in Clearance Orders	Nil
Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders	Nil
Number of dwellings included in designated Clearance Areas (to be acquired by the Council)	16

Individual Houses

Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
Number of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 12 Housing Act, 1936)	8
Number closed under Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1953	Nil
Number of families rehoused from unfit houses	35



### Food

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is purveyed to the public is 81 which is the same as in the previous year.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	-	3	Grocers	-	9
Butchers	-	7	Green Grocers	-	10
Confectioners	-	10	General Stores	-	13
Dairies	-	2	Pork Butchers	-	2
Fish Mongers	-	4	Hotels and Cafes	-	12
Fish & Chip Shops	-	4			

### Food Inspections

It should be noted that the Food and Drugs Authority for Woodbridge is the East Suffolk County Council but the condemnation of unfit items is done by the Officers of the Local Authority.

The following items were inspected and condemned during the year:-

29½ lbs. Cheese	5 tins Fish
60 lbs. Minced Pork	2 tins Gent's Relish
6¾ lbs. Stewed Steak	1 tin Carrots
10 lbs. Kidneys	10 tins Tomatoes
2½ lbs. Frankfurters	2 tubes Tomato juice
3 lbs. Sausages	7 tins Peas
1½ lbs. Veal and Ham Pie	2 jars Pickles
3½ lbs. Gammon	2 jars Beetroot
8 lbs. Luncheon Meat	3 tins Sweet Corn
1 tin Luncheon Meat	30 tins Fruit
12 lbs. Corned Beef	18 tins Fruit Juice
6 tins Corned Beef	4 tins Pimentoes
4 tins Meat	2 jars Ginger Preserves
2 stone Boiled Crab	2 tins Cranberry Preserve
1 stone Kippers	2 lbs. Jam
1 stone Mackerel	2 jars Cream
2 stone Cod	3 tins Lemonade Powder
6 doz. Fish Cakes	6 cans Cider
	2 tins Dog Food
	1 pkt. Cornflakes

Action under Various Acts & Regulations19621. Factories Act, 1937

	<u>On Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Defects</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Factories not employing power	5	3	-	-
Factories employing power	37	25	-	-
	42	28	-	-

Outworkers - Nil on Register.

11. National Assistance Act, 1948

No statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was considered necessary during the year.





